



The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdcSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Chris West

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 145 – *State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdcSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdcSWC, we **support** Senate Bill 145.

Senate Bill 145 authorizes the State Board of Social Work Examiners to issue a temporary license to an applicant who, except for passing the required examination, has otherwise completed the appropriate education and experience required for a license to practice bachelor social work or master social work. A temporary license authorizes the holder to practice in the State ***only under the supervision*** of a board-approved supervisor while the temporary license is effective.

The COVID-19 pandemic created significant delays in testing for licensure exams, posing a significant obstacle for employers, and graduates waiting to enter the workforce. This bill will provide greater flexibility during a time when we are seeing higher demands for mental and behavioral health care services and a much-needed workforce to provide those services. MdcSWC urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work: www.gwscsw.org

Contacts: Coalition Chair: Judy Gallant, LCSW-C; email: jg708@columbia.edu; mobile (301) 717-1004
Legislative Consultants: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer and Christine Krone, Schwartz, Metz, Wise & Kauffman, PA,
20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Email: pmetz@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 746-9003 ; ckrone@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 940-9165